

InTouch

WITH MEMBERS OF BUTLER COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

July 2025

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Mark your calendars! 2025 Member Appreciation Events

Tuesday, July 29 Floyd County Fairgrounds (Swartzrock Community Building) – 2516 7 Mile Rd., Charles City

Thursday, July 31 Big 4 Fairgrounds (show building) – 499 Greenwood Ave, Nashua

Tuesday, Aug. 5 Maple Hills Country Club – 2586 170th St., Tripoli

Thursday, Aug. 7 Butler County Fairgrounds (multi-species livestock building) – 101 S. Main St., Allison

Our third annual member appreciation events will be here soon, and we are looking forward to seeing you!

From 5-7 each night, plan on grilled burgers, baked beans, potato chips, cookies, ice cream, water, and lemonade. If you don't have time to sit with us, drive-thru meals will be available at each location.

Each family will receive a flexible LED flashlight, along with a chance to win prizes. This year, Butler County REC will hold drawings after each event for a \$75 bill credit and two \$20 bill credits. Kids can sign up to win one of four splash pads to be given away.

Golf cart rides will be offered to our members needing assistance to the venues from their vehicles.

Plan to join us for great food and conversation—see you then!

Board allocates \$2,090,323.86 in margins

One of the benefits of being a member of Butler County REC is that you share in the excess margins in the form of patronage dividends. Your cooperative exists to serve you, not to make a profit.

After reviewing the operating revenues for 2024, the board of directors approved to set aside \$2,090,323.86 in excess margins. These margins are set aside to be used to help keep your electric cooperative financially sound and the quality of service as high as possible. The funds are also used to retire debt and build equity in our distribution system.

Your portion

Your portion, or allocation, of the 2024 margins was listed in the box directly below your name on the June 2025 electric bill for May's usage. If you had more than one account in 2024, the total unretired patronage for all of your accounts was included.

The amount you earn is based upon the amount of electricity you use. The

sum of your bills for the year is multiplied by a percentage to determine your allocation.

Your payment

The latest payback of patronage was in February 2025, when \$1,366,689.91 was returned to members and included the 2007 and a portion of 2008 allocation. In addition, our wholesale power supplier, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, retired a portion of patronage, which was included in the February payback.

Your address

Be sure to contact us if you move out of our service territory and no longer receive service from Butler County REC. It is important to keep your address current with us so that we can return your allocation when the time comes.



Butler County REC
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Guerrero begins BCREC career

Gabbi Guerrero began service to Butler County REC members on May 1 as an accountant.

After growing up on a farm outside of Alexander, Iowa, and graduating from Webster City High School, Gabbi attended UNI and graduated with a degree in accounting and finance. She has held her CPA license for three years. Gabbi comes to us from RSM, an accounting firm in Mason City. She and her husband Austin live in Sheffield, Iowa.

Welcome to the team, Gabbi! We're happy you're here!



Craig Codner, CEO
ccodner@butlerrec.coop

This spring, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) released a report outlining their 2025 Summer Reliability Assessment.

In the report, NERC raised concerns regarding several regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and their electric generation and transmission challenges this summer.

This month, I want to take this space to discuss what it all means and how Butler County REC is working with its industry partners to address these issues.

NERC's Summer Reliability Assessment

NERC placed Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) in an "elevated risk" category for electric generation/capacity shortfalls this summer. Butler County REC is a part of the SPP footprint.

Despite the elevated risk category, SPP anticipates a high likelihood of meeting demand for electricity this summer.

Seasonal forecasts indicate a 40-60% chance of warmer-than-average temperatures this summer within the SPP footprint. There are similar chances for below-average rainfall for most of the area covered by SPP. Given these expected conditions, SPP's studies conclude there is high probability it will have sufficient native generation to meet the demand for electricity peak-usage hours over the summer season.

If extreme weather, unexpected

Reliability report released ahead of warm summer months

outages, or other circumstances affect the region, SPP has systems, tools, and procedures ready to mitigate risks and maintain electric reliability. Under different scenarios, the grid operator may call on generating units to commit to run earlier or more often than usual, delay planned equipment outages, import energy from neighboring systems, or tap into available reserves depending on the severity and duration of events affecting energy reliability.

What does this mean for Butler County REC?

The way we generate electricity is rapidly changing. More and more, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power are coming online, while traditional sources like coal, nuclear, and natural gas are being retired. Butler County REC believes and advocates for an all-of-the-above energy approach. All-of-the-above promotes the idea that the United States depends on a reliable and sustainable fuel supply that includes developing and incorporating domestically produced renewable energy resources to supplement baseload generation that includes biofuels, natural gas, nuclear, hydropower, and coal.

The electric grid is made up of thousands of generating stations and millions

primary power provider Basin Electric Power Cooperative are well-positioned to meet this summer's peak demand. And, as we have always done, we will communicate potential issues with you as they arise.

We continue to work with policy-makers and regulators on a state and federal level for a sensible all-of-the-above generation approach.

The ongoing energy transition must recognize the need for time, and technology development, while including all energy sources to maintain reliability and affordability. A resilient and reliable electric grid that affordably keeps the lights on is the cornerstone of our rural economy.

Electric cooperative families and businesses rightfully expect the lights to stay on at a price they can afford. To maintain the reliability of your power supply, we must adopt an all-of-the-above strategy that includes renewable energy as well as dependable resources we have come to rely on like coal, natural gas, nuclear, and hydropower. This diverse energy mix is essential to meeting those expectations day in and day out.

We are keenly aware that the sun doesn't always shine, and the wind doesn't always blow. While we support and encourage the development and use of renewable energy, the intermittent nature of renewables means there may be times when there simply isn't enough of it to keep the lights on all the time. Its place is to supplement a reliable and affordable baseload generation mix. That's why we must continue to recognize the value of and operate baseload generation plants now and into the future.

Our mission remains the same. We are here to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity that is also environmentally responsible. We will continue to advocate on your behalf and do everything we can to continue to live up to that mission.



of miles of line. A power plant outage or natural disaster could have an impact on SPP's projections. Butler County REC, Corn Belt Power, and Corn Belt Power's



Fair Sweet Fair: Aug. 7-17, 2025

Plan to join us at the Iowa State Fair! Cooperative employees from across the state will be working at the Iowa State Fair in August.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa sponsor the Rastetter 4-H Building on the south side of the fairgrounds. Full of awesome 4-H projects, the air-conditioned building is a must-see for fairgoers.

Be sure to check out your August *InTouch* newsletter and watch Facebook and Instagram for more information.

Stop by—we would love to see you!

Contest winner announced



Congratulations to Abby Schulz of New Hampton! Abby was the April *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* Editor's Choice contest winner. Her name was randomly drawn to receive a Cuisinart electric skillet.

Enter the magazine's contest each month by visiting ieclmagazine.com. Entrant information is not shared and only one entry per account is allowed.

Be sure to read your magazine each month for interesting columns, articles, and recipes, in addition to your *InTouch* newsletter from Butler County REC.

How to keep your devices charged when you're off the grid

Spending time outdoors is important. So is staying connected while you're camping, hiking, or on the water so you can track weather conditions and handle emergencies.

Without easy access to outlets, keeping your electronics charged requires planning. Here are ways to extend battery life and stay powered up and safe outdoors.

Charge before you go Fully charge your phone, camera, and other devices before you hit the road. Don't forget extra batteries for flashlights or headlamps. Keep chargers in your car but only charge devices while the engine is running to avoid draining the car battery. Hide cords and chargers from view if you leave your car unattended.

Pack smart When you're camping, everything you pack needs to be worth its weight in gold, or at least double as a backup battery. Bring lightweight power banks and multi-use gear like solar lanterns with USB ports. Emergency radios and portable speakers often offer charging jacks, too.

Optimize battery life Switch to airplane mode to prevent your phone from searching for a cell signal. This also helps you fully unplug without the distraction of text messages or social media notifications. Turn off Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and GPS when not in use. Dim screen brightness or enable power saving mode — or turn your phone off when not in use. Save your battery for essential tasks such as navigation or emergencies.

Choose campsites with power Look for campgrounds with electric hookups to make charging simple and stress-free. Bring an outdoor-rated extension cord to charge multiple devices at once.

Harness alternative energy Flexible solar panel chargers are perfect for sunny days outdoors. Connect one directly to your phone or power bank. For overcast conditions, hand-crank chargers can offer enough power for an emergency phone call, while wind, water, and fire-powered options provide additional back up.

Protect your devices Keeping your devices safe and functional is just as important as keeping them charged:

- Use waterproof cases to guard against rain or spills.
- Avoid extreme temperatures, as batteries drain faster in hot or cold weather. During cold weather, keep electronics close to your body for prolonged battery life.
- Store devices securely to prevent damage from falls or dirt exposure.

With these tips, you'll stay safe and connected while you recharge in the great outdoors — ready for any adventure!





*THANK YOU to
the Rudd, Rockford,
Marble Rock
High School
Future Farmers of
America for their
generous donation
to RECare! They
raised almost \$400
with their Chili Heat
fundraiser for our
members needing
additional support
during the
winter months.*

**Interested in
our rebates?**



SCAN ME



Summer vacations away from home present an opportunity to reduce the energy your house uses.

By making some adjustments before you leave, you can avoid wasting electricity on empty rooms and come home to a lower utility bill.

Before you leave:

- *Set your thermostat several degrees higher* or use vacation mode if your system offers it.
- *Unplug nonessential appliances* like TVs, computers, coffee makers, and chargers.
- *Turn off lights* or use timers for security purposes.
- *Close blinds* or shades to keep out sunlight and reduce indoor heat.
- *Turn down the water heater* temperature or switch it to vacation mode.
- *Fully close and lock* windows and doors.

Even though you won't be home to use energy, your appliances and systems might—unless you plan ahead. These simple steps take just a few minutes but can result in meaningful energy savings.



At your electric co-op, we're proud to be a part of it, bringing people together by providing energy for all the things you love.

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